



# TL'ETINQOX DENI JENI

TL'ETINQOX COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Chief & Council Swearing in Ceremony 2025



School Grads at the  
Grad Ceremony

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Dale Hance – Chief

# Nits'il?in & Nits'il?in-Yaz

Chief and Council



Cecil Grinder  
Councillor



Brendon Harry  
Councillor



Trevor Mack  
Councillor



Paul Grinder  
Councillor



Jimmy Harry Jr.  
Councillor



Harvey Dick  
Councillor



Dustin Hance  
Councillor



Melanie Johnny  
Councillor



Leslie Stump  
Councillor



Garry Stump  
Councillor



Alana Bobby  
Councillor



Randy Billyboy  
Councillor

# Chief's Message

## Dear Community Members,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I share with you the very first edition of our Tl'etinqox community newsletter—Tl'etinqox Deni Jeni ! Our goal is to be informative and transparent to all our members, both on reserve and off. Our Facebook page can provide community updates, but this newsletter will go further and keep everyone informed of our news, progress and initiatives. With that in mind this newsletter was born.

Over the past years, we have made important progress in many areas: Education, where this year we proudly celebrated our first ever high school graduation ceremony with five graduates. We are the first school in the Chilcotin to go from kindergarten to grade 12. Because we are a band run school that means we were also able to support our students learning Chilcotin thought their entire school years. What a great start! There is so much we want to achieve. We want to see more students attending post-secondary in both the trades and university. As our people become more educated, we hope to see them having a louder voice in the communities where they live and in moving home to take jobs supporting our people.

Housing, 5 new units ready for families to move in, with an additional 8 that are in the building phase. We have many homes that are undergoing maintenance and several others that are having more intense repairs. This will improve the quality of life for many of our families. This is just the beginning of what we hope to achieve. We know we need many more houses.

Community development reflects our vision and values for families, children, and overall community. This year we are so proud of our historic win at a nation level of being awarded full jurisdiction over our children and families, both on and off reserve. Our children will have better opportunities than we did. They will all be raised with love and support so they can know and be proud of who they are.

We already have amazing health services that meet the needs of our people in culturally appropriate ways. We are currently the only community in the nation with an established community garden that is feeding our people on and off reserve and promoting food security. We have invested in power, a water well and a huge greenhouse. This is such an exciting venture and I am sure you join me in looking forward to how this develops.

I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who has contributed to these efforts. Whether through leadership, service, volunteerism, or simply by showing up and supporting your fellow community members — it does not go unnoticed. You are helping to shape a strong future for all of us.

This community newsletter marks an exciting step forward in how we stay connected, share our stories, and celebrate the strength and spirit of our Nation. Whether it's updates from Chief and Council, programs and services, community events, or voices from our youth and Elders — this newsletter is for all of us.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to making this first edition possible. Your efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to transparency, unity, and the well-being of our people.

Let this be just the beginning of a new way to stay informed, engaged, and inspired.

I am so proud to be a part of this community,

Chief Dale Hance  
Tl'etinqox Government



# Message from the CEO

## Dear Tl'etinqox Community Members and Staff:

It is with great pride and gratitude that I share this message in our very first Tl'etinqox Community Newsletter. I would like to thank the staff who contributed to bringing this publication together. Your efforts are deeply appreciated, and this newsletter will play an important role in keeping us all informed, connected, and engaged as we move forward.

There are many exciting things happening within the Tl'etinqox Government. We are proud to celebrate a major milestone—our very first high school graduation at Tl'etinqox School. Congratulations to our graduates, their families and school staff! This was a historic moment and a reflection of the commitment and strength of our community.

On the housing front, we are completing a home building project named Soapberry Lane that will eventually bring 15 new community living units. We have also started a new staff housing area behind the school to support teacher and staff retention. We also continue to provide renovation funds to a number of homes in the community.

Our Health Centre continues to add new services to better serve our community. We also acknowledge the positive impact of our Community Development department that supports children, youth, and families and brings community together.

Our community garden was very successful this year in the fields and greenhouse, producing and distributing more healthy vegetables than ever before, and celebrated with our 2nd annual Fall Harvest Festival.

Chief and Council received their Finance Administration Law and Governance Policy, and are working towards a Tl'etinqox Land Code, and a custom election code.

We continue to engage with partners and advocate with governments for new funding and increase to new funding to improve programs and services for all Tl'etinqox members, both on and off reserve. TG is committed to doing everything we can to bring more opportunities and support to our people.

Respectfully,

Dr. Mitch Verde  
Chief Executive Officer  
Tl'etinqox Government





# Message from the Tl'etinqox Community Newsletter Working Committee

We're so proud to share the very first edition of our Tl'etinqox community newsletter Tl'etinqox Deni Jeni — it's finally here!

It wasn't always easy getting this first issue out, but with support from so many of you, we made it happen. Thank you to our leadership, senior administrators, and staff for believing in this project and helping bring it to life.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Tl'etinqox Elder Angie Stump, who gifted the name Tl'etinqox Deni Jeni in our language. Your guidance and knowledge continue to ground us in our culture and identity — again thank you very much for the name Tl'etinqox Deni Jeni.

We also want to thank Erik from Papyrus for working closely with us to get this issue published in such a short time — your help made a big difference.

Most of all, thank you to our community. This newsletter is for you and about you. It's a space to share stories, celebrate one another, and stay connected.

This is just the beginning, and we know we've got room to grow. We welcome your ideas, feedback, and voices as we move forward together.

We hope you enjoy reading this first issue — and we're already looking forward to hearing what you'd like to see in the next one!

Sechanalyagh

## Tl'etinqox Community Newsletter Working Committee

Chief & Council, Councilor – Trevor Mack

Women's Council and/or Elders – Cynthia Dick

Community Development Department – Andrea Charleyboy

Finance – Genny Bolyos / Janel Alphonse

Band Services, Education – Emma Feldinger

Band Services, Housing – Jacob Gilpin

Health and Raven's Nest – Stella Stump

Coordinator/Facilitator – Bipin Dhakal, Director of Band Services

# Swearing in ceremony



# Tsilhqot'in Tsi'qi Dechen Jedilhtan (Women's Council) update

By Cynthia Dick

Hello, Tl'etinqox families and community members. What a beautiful, busy summer it has been! Our Women's Council has been hard at work, guided by the spirit of our ancestors and the needs of our people.

We began our journey this summer by finalizing our Terms of Reference, a foundational document that will guide our path forward. We are now preparing to present it to the Tsilhqot'in National Government board, confident in the strength of our vision.

We have stood together at important gatherings, our hearts full and our spirits strong. We walked in the Red Dress Day ceremony with Tl'etinqox school, our steps honoring the stolen sisters and relatives. We celebrated the Tsilhqot'in Title Win in June at Tl'esqox, a powerful reminder that our connection to this land is unbreakable. And in July, we had representation at the Chief ?ahan Memorial in New Westminster to remember a leader who fought tirelessly for our rights and dignity.

The Women's Council, together with our leadership, also came forward to share a powerful message. We stand in solidarity with those who have bravely shared their stories of sexual abuse and trauma. Our teachings tell us that alh ats'edih (honesty) brings truth to light, and as a people, we must Ts'idanes Jid elhelh deni ts'ilin (walk united together). We are committed to elhelh ats'et'in (helping each other) because we know that true healing is found in our shared stories, our burdens, and our collective hope.

At the Nation Gathering, our traditional fashion show was a beautiful tribute to our culture and creativity. It showcased stunning pieces from talented local seamstresses, reminding us of the artistry that runs through our people's hands.

Looking ahead, we are committed to meeting once a month to continue this vital work. We will also attend events that the TNG and our communities invite us to, ready to assist with celebrations, ceremonies, and speeches. We are here to support our people, walking alongside you as we build a stronger, healthier future for all Tsilhqot'in.



# Gwa Tagwedit'alh ?Eguh ?Agujaigh:

## Celebrating Our Graduates

*By Randy Grice, Principal*

This past June was a month that will hold great significance for years to come. The sounds of drumming, song, and joyful cheers echoed through Tl'etinqox First Nation as the community gathered for a momentous occasion: the first-ever high school graduation ceremony for Tl'etinqox ?Esgul. The historic event marked the culmination of years of vision and dedication, celebrating the five students who became our community's inaugural graduating class — Zava Bonneau-Dick, Marlon Case, Kris Hance, Aaron Jim, and Jadikka Johnny.

For generations, our community has faced the difficult necessity of sending our children away in order to complete their education. While we supported them from afar, their absence created a tangible gap in the heart of our community.

This year, that long-held challenge was transformed into a triumph. The ability of our school, now serving over 60 students, to guide our youth all the way to Grade 12 is a testament to the unwavering vision of our leaders and the dedication of our families. It marks a powerful new era for Tl'etinqox.

An immense sense of pride is felt for all five of our graduates. They are the trailblazers who have illuminated the path for the generations that will follow. Though we honour all of our graduates' hard work and dedication, we extend a special recognition to our coaledictorian, Kris Hance, who at just 15 years old, exemplified the remarkable potential and bright future of our nation.



Seeing our five students receive their diplomas was a moment of profound pride for every one of us. This graduation was a celebration for everyone: for our Elders who held this vision, for the parents who provided unwavering support, and for the younger children who now have a clear and visible path to their own graduation day, right here on the land that raised them.

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6929 School Road, Tl'etinqox, BC V0L 1A0 | PO Box 607, Alexis Creek, BC V0L1A0  
Principal: Randy Grice | Vice-Principal: Melissa Rocha  
[www.tletinqoxschool.com](http://www.tletinqoxschool.com)





# Band Services: Updates on Related Programs and Services

*Bipin Dhakal, Director of Band Services*

*(with the collective input from Adam, Edward, Eleanor, Emma, Garry, Geni, Jacob, Katherine, and Sidney)*

The Office of Band Services is committed to implementing its program and providing services to the community members as guided by the Tl'etinqox Government's vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities.

With the guidance of Chief and Council, we are happy to organize the Band General Meeting on 18th October 2025 this year. As this was a first meeting after a while we will be aiming for more community engagement through different events such as Annual General Meeting in couple of months, and different engagements events through program and services within the Tl'etinqox Government. These events will help us to share our success stories as well as an opportunity to listen to the community members' concerns and suggestions. The key message here is: Together, we can do it! In Unity, we are stronger!

Updates to the programs and services managed under the Band Services are followings:

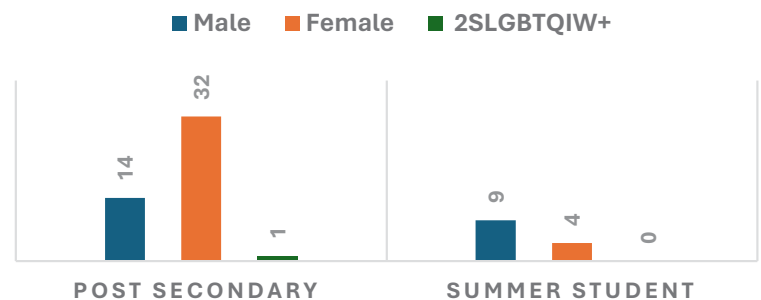
## Education

Post Secondary Policy updated and was approved by Chief and Council at the end of August 2025. Major changes included increasing living allowance, tuition coverage, travel, and graduation supports for students. living allowance and tuition coverage.

We currently have 47 post-secondary students for the school year; this number may change in January 2026.

Summer students finished working on Aug 28th, 2025. We had 6 full-time and 7 part-time summer students who gained hands on-skill and work related sift skills from this opportunity.

### POST SEC EDUCATION & SUMMER STUDENT



Back-to-school BBQ event organized on Aug 27th, where we handed out 100 of \$100 gift cards for back-to-school supplies to on and off-reserve students as well as those on our nominal roll.



## **Vision**

Tl'etinqox Government aspires to build a future where our community members are moving towards economic independence, achieving better educational outcomes, and enjoying good health, while nurturing a strong cultural connection and supportive environment.

## **Mission**

We empower, unite, and sustain a thriving, culturally rich community by offering comprehensive support and opportunities, fostering independence, well-being, and a deep connection to our heritage and land, promoting a prosperous present and a legacy for future generations.

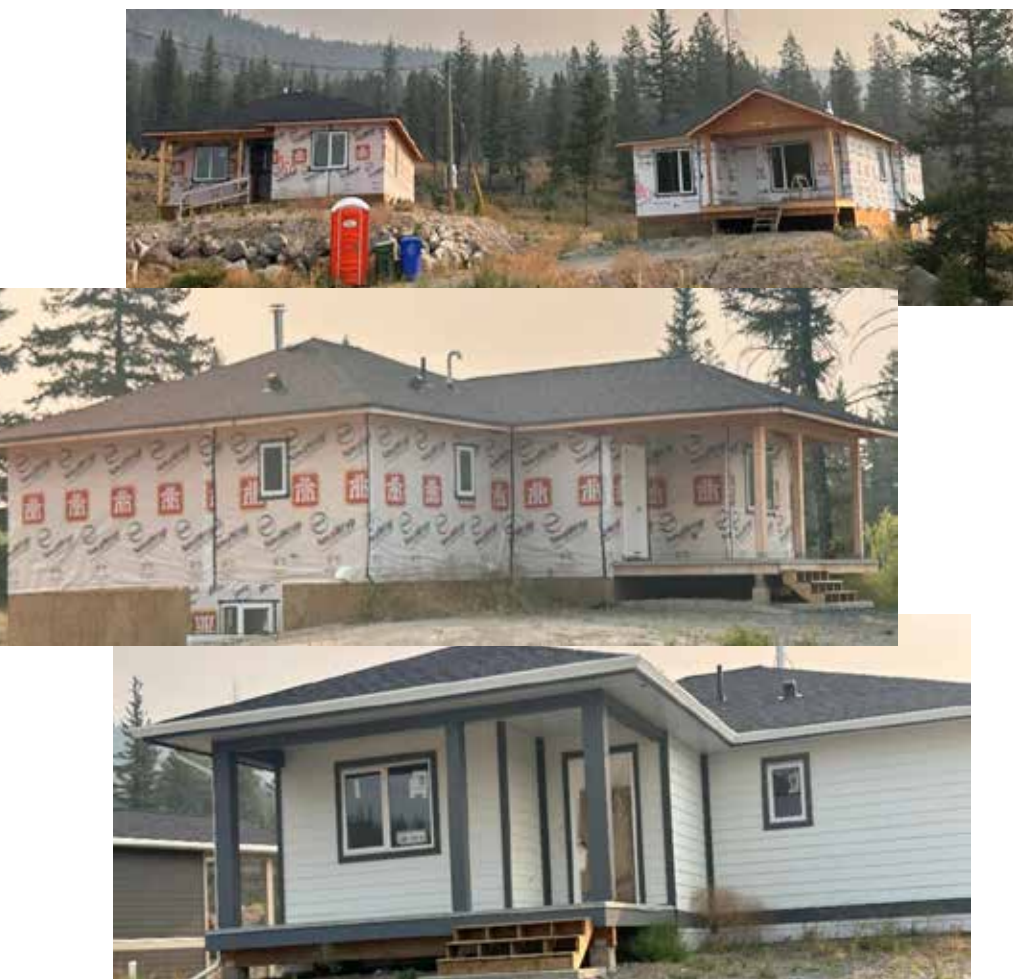
## **Values**

Accountability,  
Adaptability, Creativity,  
Cultural Teachings, Family,  
Honesty, Leadership,  
Teamwork.

## **Strategic Priorities**

Administration and  
Finance, Community  
Development, Education,  
Employment and  
Economic Development,  
Governance, Health,  
Housing and Infrastructure,  
and Nen ("Lands").

Source: Tl'etinqox  
Government, Strategic  
Plan 2024-2029.



## **Community Housing**

We started building 11 new homes at the subdivision last year and 4 are completed (3 single houses and one with two separate units) this September. We are glad to announce that 5 families will be staying in these new homes before the winter this year! A total of 15 living units will be built in Soapberry Lane area.

This year we are also able to complete BC housing assessments in almost 80% of the community homes. We would like to express our thanks to the community members who allowed us to enter their homes for this assessment and request for cooperation from rest of the homes as well. This assessment will help us to better understand our houses situations and for future plannings including funding negotiations.

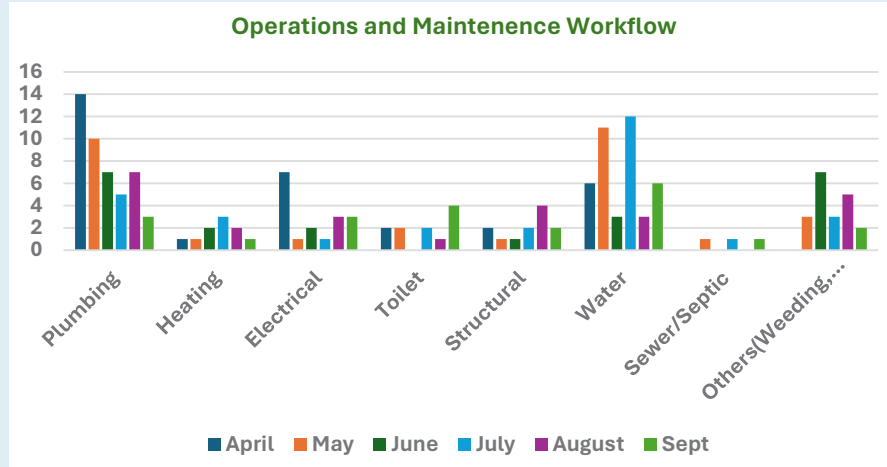
We have started some urgent housing renovation utilizing multiple contractors to speed up this process. The administration and housing committee will be working on prioritizing more repairs and maintenance of the houses in the community based on the priorities, criteria, and conditions as outlined by the funders.

We have secured funding for a new trailer home to be established as transitional home in the community. This home will be utilized to house families during emergencies, repairs, and other temporary needs. The repairs work on woodstoves, emptying of septic tanks, and furnaces are underway on a priority and need basis.

## Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

O&M together with housing program have developed new maintenance request form this year to improve the response and tracking of the maintenance request from the community members. We are also working on making our O&M team more effective and efficient by equipping them with better skills and knowledge, equipment, and skilled personnel within the team. We purchased a filial chopper for grass cutting last year and are looking at purchasing an excavator for community use. In the next section, O&M team have made some requests to the community members for some preventative measures to keep our community safe (see the messaging in another page).

Based on the data collected until mid-September O&M have responded to following repairs, maintenance, and other requests such as grass cutting, moving stuff around, weeding, cleaning, and public works. In addition, O&M teams also spend their time supporting community events such as horse and bike rides, cultural camps, and additional community events.



**Dipping Stand at T̓silhqot'in River**

## Nen/Land

Protecting and managing Tl'etinqox traditional lands is always one of the top priorities. Band Services, Nen program works on land stewardship, environmental conservation, forestry, and resource management to ensure responsible land use for future generations. Nen program is currently working in updating our traditional land use sites such as harvesting, hunting, fishing, burials, spiritual, historical, and more. In addition, we are closely and collaboratively working with T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG) at the different tables on different levels of land claims, and gathering information, evidence, and stories from the Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

We recently have entered into the agreement with First Nations Land Management Resource Centre to develop our own land codes. To add, First Nations developed the Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management (Framework Agreement) with Canada to exercise community control over reserve lands and resources. It will protect these lands for future generations by preventing any surrender and sale or any provincial or federal expropriation and will facilitate economic development to generate revenues for jobs and for the community. It further clarify and ensure that nothing in the Framework Agreement shall be interpreted in a way that abrogates or derogates from any aboriginal or other rights and freedoms that pertain to the signatory First Nations or any treaty rights of the signatory First Nations without the consent of the signatory First Nation expressly obtained; and developmental funding is to be made available to First Nations who are part of the Framework Agreement to develop a land code. We will soon be working together with the community members on this front through community engagements.



## Language and Culture

The revitalization, and preservation of the Tsilhqot'in language and culture/traditions is an important work for our community. To support this work, we have organized language classes, cultural events, and heritage preservation projects. Spiritual and cultural teaching and storytelling were organized, followed by BBQ at T7 Cultural Ranch, where people learned about the sacred sites, the history of the sacred sites, stories about the Lady who turned to stone, Bull Canyon, and T7 cultural ranch. The group also talked about a potential place to build a T'ish, fire pit, and sweat area, and then visited Anah Lake.



Language and Culture was able to support youth activities during horse and bike rides events. About 60-70 people participated in the Indian Bingo and jellybean count contests. We also have ongoing staff language immersion program – In May, we had a good turnout, with about 9 staff members joining.

Language and Culture program in collaboration with other

departments and school was able to organize Truth and Reconciliation Day with following activities: honor walk, Elders prayers, Drumming, BBQ, and traditional food together with school students and community members.

Collaborative work is underway within TG departments and programs and with the TNG language department on creating games and ideas for the event activities and created a scavenger hunt game; TNG also created art through technology. Collaborated and helped with culture camps activities for youth, including rock painting, canvas painting and arts and crafts.

New office space for language and culture is set up at the trailer beside the Band Office; still working on making space more welcoming with more cultural paintings, teachings, arts and crafts.

We have community Online Language Immersion coming up: 6-week language immersion for community members in and outside the community-inclusive to all Tl'etinqox members.



## T7 Cultural Ranch

T7 Cultural Ranch aims to provide a safe space for healing, wellness, on-the-land, traditional and recreational, and skill development activities for the communities and organizations. T7 Cultural ranch is receiving increased program requests from both within and outside the community. The Community Development, Health, Emergency/Security Program and TNG are booking their events at the T7 Cultural ranch in a regular basis.

We are continuously working in making the space safer and welcoming for events and activities. We have horse fencing completed, safer grazing established, snowmobiles and 4x4s purchased via Gordo's including safety gears, with trail-building plans underway.

The fuel management and trail development in underway at the T7 Cultural ranch and meetings are in progress with Dechen and community members to do the work. We will be installing new horse-waterer, yard hydrant repair (from original damage), and gravel fill from the round pen in the center of the property. New communication devices Starlink, one for building-upgrade the device and a new one for T7 truck, are installed as part of working alone, emergency support and communication plan for T7. We have pre-employment workshop/event planned by Community Development department at the T7 Cultural Ranch in November 2025.

## Emergency Management, Safety & Security

New Fire Smart Coordinator Pamela Alphose started working on September 03, 2025. Fire Smart program will be doing home visits to implement FireSmart awareness and plan.

As part of the emergency preparedness and mitigation plan, fuel burning and cultural burning at the T7 cultural ranch will happen soon.

Draft report on Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP) is prepared by Frontera Forest Solutions, Inc. We are expecting it to be finalized soon. Once this report is finalized, it will provide us with the list of risks and action items. It will also suggest avenues for us to secure more funding and programs in the areas of community emergency planning, mitigation, preparedness, and implementation.

Emergency Management Manager, six Band staff members, and five community members completed S-100 and S-185 training delivered by Chris from TNG.

We have a new Firetruck for the community. We are working on getting some additional equipment's to be updated and training/practice to be completed on using it when in need.

The Emergency Management program is collaboratively working with TNG, EMCR, and provincial emergency management team in addressing local needs. A landslide preparedness meeting was held at the school, which the Emergency Manager attended. Drone training was completed on June 15-20 at T7 Ranch, facilitated by trainers from Vancouver Island, staff and community members took part in this training. Program also supported during the Horse & Bike Ride, and Culture Camp.

Security Management: We are in continuous process of reviewing our current security model and moving towards more mobile security arrangements in the community. Our goal is to develop a Community Safety and Wellness Officer model by providing training, a proper dress code, and tools for effective and safe community-based response.



## Fleet Management

**Safety & Compliance:** Fleet Management is doing its best, and on top of keeping up with safety compliance. Update is underway for the drivers' list on file with a copy of licenses, driver's abstracts, and the signing of the fleet policy. Some departments and programs have not submitted all the forms, but most of them are updated.

**Best Practices:** Staff introduced a pre-trip checklist system and shared it with CVSE, who responded positively and plan to share it with other communities. Dashboard reminders and trip logs are being implemented to ensure driver compliance with regulatory requirements.

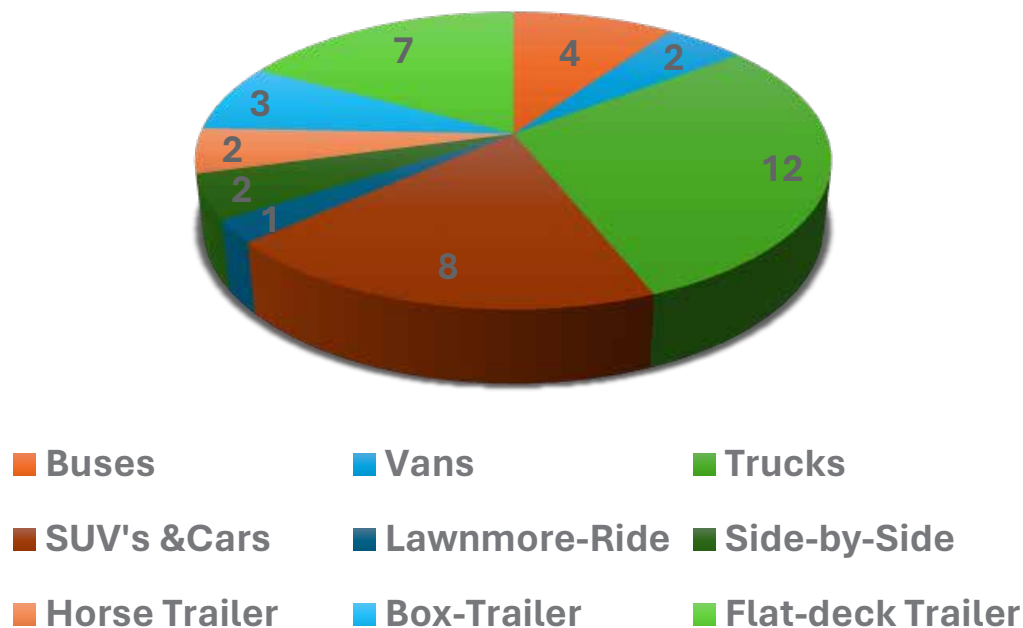
Requirement for updates in the TG Fleet Policy 2019 is identified, and the fleet manager has submitted the proposed changes in the policy, such as updating the cost of travel, fuel cost, pet policy, drivers' list, responsibilities, and cleanliness of the vehicle. These changes will be further shared with staff members, and Chief and Council members for inclusive feedback and will be presented to the Chief and Council for approval.

The pie-charts shows the fleet currently TG owns and operates.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff members, who continuously strive to improve our programs and services for the benefit of our members.

We also deeply appreciate the guidance and support of our leadership as we move forward together toward building a community that is healthy, prosperous, safe, and welcoming—for generations to come.

### TGO Fleet Capacity



# Updates on Capital Projects

*Bob Davidson, Manager, Capital Projects*

It was a busy summer for capital projects in Tl'etinqox. Community members will have noticed that survey markers have been popping up around the village as planning and preparation for futures projects continues. Work is continuing on a wastewater improvement project, new trailers at the teacherages, and power and water for the greenhouse and gardens area.

Three notable projects are in the construction phase now.



## Street Lighting

This project is adding street and highway lights to two dark stretches of road to improve safety and security in Tl'etinqox. Poles have been installed and we are working with BC Hydro to get power to the projects. A dark and dangerous corner of the highway northwest of the health centre will be lighted, including a stretch of Ancestor Road. Lights are also being installed along Tl'etinqox Road on the hill behind the band office.



## Solid Waste Transfer Station

Clearing has been completed for the Solid Waste Transfer Station, with construction to start new spring. This project will offer a major improvement to Tl'etinqox people for the disposal of all kinds of solid waste and hazardous materials, and enable recycling paper, plastics and electronics. We are planning to add composting capability, provided the funding applications are successful.



## Hayshed

Construction is underway on the hay shed for the equine project. This project will provide dry storage for up to 300 round bales of hay for the horses, especially through the winter. The hay shed will be completed this November.



## TI'etinqox Health Services: **Services To Promote & Maintain Health & Wellbeing**

*Mehran Faridani, Director, Health Services  
(with the collective inputs from  
Anthony and Gabriella)*



The goal of TI'etinqox Health Clinic is to provide point of care support to community members to maintain their wellbeing and independence focusing on prevention and management of chronic diseases. The clinic operates Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 and offers the following services:

**Nursing Services,** there are two nurses on site along with two care aides to support the community, our nursing staff are skilled in providing culturally safe care including: wound care, foot care, home and community care, immunization, prenatal counselling, diabetes care and general nursing services.

**Physician Services,** every Monday, Dr. Granberg is on site and sees patients by appointments. Currently he has a full caseload and is not accepting any more patients.

**Dental Services,** there is a dentist and hygienist service available at the clinic that serves our community as well as the neighbouring communities, community members can make appointments with the dentist by calling the clinic. Community members can also have their teeth cleaned by a hygienist.

**Mental Health Counselling Services,** there is a mental health counsellor available on site 7 days a month, those days are Wednesdays and Thursdays 3 weeks a month and one Friday a month. Please make an appointment at the clinic if you would like to see the mental health counsellor. The mental health counsellor can also help with applications to treatment centres across BC for mental health and addiction services.

**Elder Support Services,** the clinic also offers an elder care program which is aimed to provide assistance to community elders so they can maintain their independence. The elder care program provides meals, home making services and cultural activities.

In addition to above services, the clinic offers Physiotherapy, Kinesiology and Energy Healer, Raynor massage services to community members.

One of the goals of the clinic is to screen for those diseases that are more prevalent in the First Nations and as such recently a point of care device called Siemens Atellica Solution was purchased to screen for diabetes and kidney disease. Our nursing staff can use the Atellica Solutions by taking a drop of blood through a lancet to check for prediabetes condition and therefore be able to screen for diabetes before a community member develops diabetes.



# Raven's Nest childcare

## After School Program (2:30-6pm) & Activities with ASCD Charlotte Frank

Look! See my mask? It glows In The Dark. But You Can't See It!



Ooh! This is Cold

Join our afterschool program filled with hands-on activities, new friendships, and a space where kids can thrive. Let them grow with their friends!

Youth Workers Ashley Hunlin & Deanna Stump

Creative, Learning & Art & Crafts,

Outdoor activities & Snacks

Charlotte Frank,

Hello,Hello! Here we go again! Watching new growths of all sorts! I have recently started my new position here at the Raven's Nest Child Care Center as the Aboriginal Supported Child Development and will be working within the community and along side it's members with their children, supporting wherever I am needed. I am excited to get going, so my mind is all over the place doing planning and preparing for all the fun learning we will be doing and (jumping ahead of myself) everyone around me!

List of small things I will be doing:

- touch on behaviour
- screening and assessments
- cultural/language teachings
- touch on mental health
- nutrition/health and more

Ice Cream in a bag-shake it! up



5-13 YEARS OLD



Arts & Crafts/Mask Making. Team Work Makes the Dream work! It's more fun, with friends!



## Community Development:

# Strengthening our Families, Youth, and Future

*By Yvonne Ashley, Director of Community Development, Tl'etinqox Government*



At Tl'etinqox, we believe that strong families and connected community are at the heart of who we are. Our Community Development Department is here to support our members at every stage of life, through programs and services grounded in Tsilhqot'in teachings, language, and land.

Over the past year, our team has been working hard to bring together programs that meet the needs of children, youth, families, and community members in a good way. We've continued to strengthen our Family Wellness and Prevention Services, offering support for parents, men, and women, and creating space for families to come together in healing and cultural connection. Our Youth Services are growing too, with recreation, life skills, and mentorship programs designed to help young people build confidence, learn from Elders, and take pride in who they are.

The department also provides Income Assistance and Employment Support to help members meet their needs while working toward greater independence. We're focusing on practical skills, job readiness, and partnerships that open doors to training and employment opportunities.

Another important part of our work is in Justice and Advocacy, where we walk beside community members who are involved in the justice system. Through prevention, guidance, and cultural healing, we aim to reduce barriers and support positive outcomes for individuals and families.

All of our programs share one goal, to build a thriving, self-reliant Tl'etinqox community where everyone feels supported, valued, and connected. Our work is guided by the Tl'etinqox Practice Framework, rooted in our teachings and our nenqay, and carried out with respect, trust, and care for one another.

If you'd like to learn more, visit our website or drop by our office. We're here to listen, to help, and to walk alongside you. Together, we are building a stronger Tl'etinqox.



## Community Development Update:

# What is the Community Development Department?

*By Andrea Charleyboy*

Community Development at Tl'etinqox is about walking together as a Nation, guided by our culture, teachings, and the wisdom of our Elders. Rooted in our nenqay (land), carried by our desniqi (families), and strengthened through our language and ceremonies, the department works to support wellness for individuals, families, and the whole community.

Our team provides family support, prevention, wellness, and justice services that are culturally grounded, community-led, and spiritually connected.

At its heart, Community Development is more than service delivery, it is a commitment to identity, dignity, and unity. Together, we strive to strengthen families, protect our children, revitalize our traditions, and walk forward in wellness for future generations.

## 2025 Horse & Bike Ride

This year's Horse and Bike Ride was a great success, with participation from five Tsilhqot'in communities. Over 100 riders from Tl'etinqox joined in throughout the six-day journey, showcasing incredible community spirit and teamwork.



## 2025 Culture Camp

This year's Culture Camp was widely celebrated as one of the best yet, with many community members sharing positive feedback. The planning committee worked diligently to create an event focused on celebrating, learning, and honouring Tl'etinqox traditional knowledge and ways of being.

Workshops and demonstrations included dip net making, baby basket making, hide tanning, baby moccasin making, beading, and the traditional preparation of meat and fish through cutting and smoking. In addition to cultural activities, community members were also able to access self-care services such as haircuts, hair braiding, massage, and reflexology.

The event also featured Tl'etinqox's new food trailer, which will serve nutritious and delicious meals at future large community gatherings. Entertainment and recreation brought everyone together with horseshoes, poker, and bingo, while children and youth enjoyed a variety of fun and engaging activities.



## Upcoming Events

- **Community Halloween Event – Thursday, October 30**
- **Halloween Trick-or-Treating & Fireworks – Friday, October 31**
- **Off-Reserve Christmas Dinner – Sunday, December 7 at TRU Gymnasium**
- **On-Reserve Christmas Dinner – Sunday, December 21 at Tl'etinqox School**
- **New Year's Dinner & Dance – Monday, December 29 at Tl'etinqox School**



Tsilhqot'in Law Comes into Force:

# A New Chapter for Tl'etinqox Families and Children

*By Yvonne Ashley, Director of Community Development*

On April 1, 2025, a historic transformation began across the Tsilhqot'in Nation as the child and family law, Tsilhqot'in Esqax Sutsel Jeniyax (Tsilhqot'in Children Growing Up in a Good Way), officially came into force.

For Tl'etinqox, this marks the beginning of a new era, one where decisions about Tsilhqot'in children and families are guided by Tsilhqot'in teachings, language, and values. This is the start of walking in a good way, Sutsel Ghidelh, following the vision and direction of the Nation's leaders, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers.



Under this first stage of implementation, the focus is on prevention and voluntary family services that help families stay together, strengthen parenting, and ensure that every child grows up surrounded by love, safety, and culture. These services are being developed collaboratively with community members, staff, and Elders, weaving traditional teachings into everyday practice.

The coming into force of this law restores what the Tsilhqot'in ancestors always knew, that children are sacred and thrive when connected to their families, communities, and culture.

This achievement is the result of many years of dedication, courage, and collaboration. It was made possible by the countless community members who offered their voices, knowledge, and hearts along the way: those who helped shape the law, those who carried out the difficult negotiations with governments, and those who shared cultural teachings and guidance to ensure this law truly reflects Tsilhqot'in ways of caring for children.

As we move into this new stage of implementation, I want to acknowledge and thank everyone, past and present, who walked this path. Your vision and commitment continue to guide this important work. Together, Tl'etinqox and the Tsilhqot'in Nation are building a future where every child grows up surrounded by love, language, land, and community.

# Community Housing Update & Message

By Bipin Dhakal and Jacob Gilpin,

## Repairs and Maintenance

We are working hard to speed up urgent housing maintenance and repairs in our community. Currently, three contractors are on site handling major and urgent housing needs.

Our housing needs are much higher than the funding currently available. That's why we are actively seeking additional support from government programs and other funding agencies. With guidance from TI'etinqox leadership, we will continue to address these needs as best we can.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work together to provide safer and more comfortable homes for our Elders, families, and children.



## Maintenance Fees and Rental Payments

Our rental and maintenance fees are minimal, but they are essential for keeping Band-owned homes in good condition. These fees help cover:

- Repairs and regular maintenance; Appliance replacement; Septic system work; Wood stove cleaning; Normal wear and tear.

Thank you to all members who pay their fees regularly—it makes a real difference. For those who have outstanding fees, please contact us to make payment arrangements. If fees are not paid, it becomes harder to maintain your home properly.

Let's work together to keep our homes safe and well-maintained—it's a win-win for everyone.



## Safety and Accessibility for Contractors and Inspectors

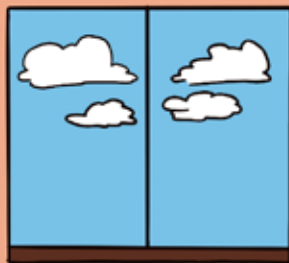
To keep our community safe this winter, please:

- Remove recycling and garbage from balconies, sidewalks, and enclosed spaces at home. These materials can fuel a fire and put everyone at risk.
- Keep all areas tidy and accessible, especially around plumbing, electrical fixtures, and heating systems.
- Organize personal belongings so maintenance staff can work safely without obstruction.
- Address hazards such as clutter, spills, or blocked pathways before scheduled maintenance visits.

Contractors and inspectors already have a long waitlist. Keeping your home clean and accessible helps us complete inspections and repairs on time. Your cooperation allows us to deliver services more quickly and safely.

# OUR JOURNEY through

## COOKING SAFETY



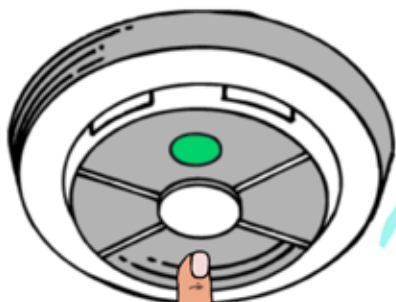
Keep a  
Fire Extinguisher  
in the Kitchen

Put a Lid on a grease  
fire & turn off the st

Don't Leave cooking  
food unattended

Keep kitchens  
clean & tidy

CHECK  
ELDERS



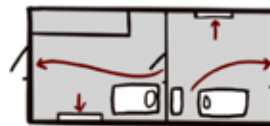
## SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Install DETECTORS &  
ALARMS in your HOME

Change the BATTERIES  
as needed and

Test them  
MONTHLY

HAVE A HOME  
FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



REPLACE  
ALARMS & DETECTORS  
every 10 YEARS



# WINTER FIRE SAFETY

## HOME HEATING SAFETY

Never use oven,  
Gas Range or BBQ  
to heat your Home

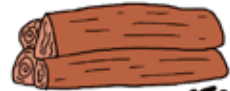


Never Leave  
Space Heaters  
unattended



Keep Wood  
Stoves and  
Chimneys  
CLEAN

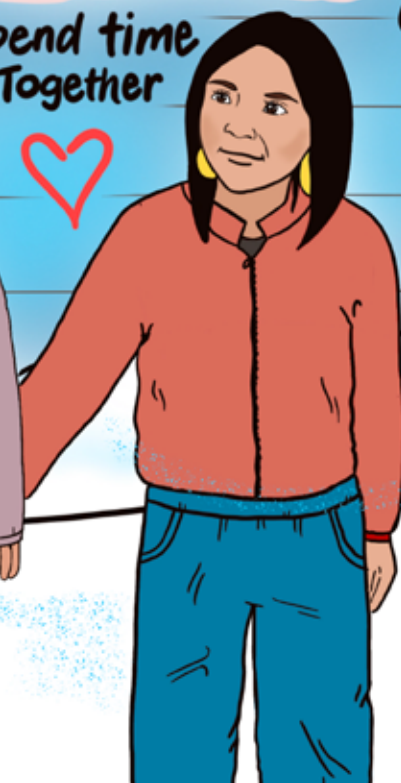
Always use  
DRY Firewood



in YOUR WOOD STOVE

## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Spend time  
Together



102  
Clear House  
Numbers



Shovel walks  
& driveways

BRing Food  
& medicine

Keep OUT OF  
REACH OF CHILDREN  
& PETS



Place in a  
STURDY HOLDER

## CANDLE SAFETY

PUT OUT CANDLES  
before going to bed  
or when leaving home

DON'T LEAVE  
BURNING  
CANDLES  
UNATTENDED



Keep candles away  
from flammable  
materials



# Tl'etinqox Operations & Maintenance

We've made some updates to our O&M work process to help improve service and keep Tl'etinqox a great place to live.

## Work Request Process Updates

- Mandatory Work Request Forms: All work must be requested via the official form with full details (issue with full description, contact info, availability).
- Purpose: Helps with warranty tracking and efficient scheduling.

## Safety During Work

- Dog Safety: Please restrain or secure dogs with questionable behavior when workers are present.

## Cooking Grease Disposal

- Use Collection Pails: Grease causes serious sewer issues. And contact front desk for any filled.
- Need a Pail or Pickup? Call the band office and ask for Lillian.

## Urgent Issues

- Report Water Leaks Immediately: Even small leaks can cause major damage and mold.
- Safety Hazards: Notify O&M as soon as possible.
- Chimney cleaning and septic tank services are ongoing.

## Community Safety Program & Infrastructure

- New Road Signs: Part of a safety initiative—please follow signage and be cautious around crews.
- Waste Transfer Station: Construction underway, expected completion next year.
- Sewage lagoon maintenance: Interim work completion; ongoing monitoring.
- Road grading: Limited by weather; washboard issues persist. Using 4x4 helps reduce damage up the subdivision hill.

## Recycling & Garbage Services

- Ongoing Services: Updates provided when trucks are down.

## Final Note

- The O&M crew appreciates your cooperation and patience. Best wishes and safe travels!



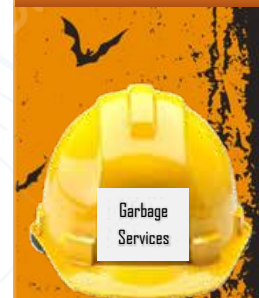
Ed Groniger



Wacey Alphonse



Shawn Alphonse



Lenny Dick



Ryan Dick



Jeffery Jim



Dylan Dick



Henry Dick



# TI'etinqox Government Finance Department

Hello! Hunilht'ih!

The TI'etinqox Government Finance Department plays a vital role in supporting the long-term wellbeing and sustainability of our community. Our team is responsible for managing the financial affairs of the TI'etinqox Government, ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of community resources.

## What We Do:

- **Budgeting & Financial Planning:**  
We work closely with leadership and departments to develop budgets that reflect community priorities and ensure resources are used effectively.
- **Financial Reporting:**  
We provide regular reports to Chief and Council, departments, and funding agencies to ensure clear and accurate financial communication.
- **Funding & Grants Management:**  
We manage incoming funds from federal, provincial, and other sources, ensuring compliance with all financial requirements and agreements.
- **Support to Departments:**  
We assist other departments in financial planning, reporting, and tracking to support successful program delivery.
- **Audits & Accountability:**  
We coordinate the annual audit and uphold high standards of financial integrity and accountability.

## Our Commitment:

The Finance Department is committed to serving the TI'etinqox community with professionalism, honesty, and transparency. We believe that strong financial management is key to supporting self-governance, sustainable development, and future generations.

We are here to support the vision and goals of our community, and we welcome questions, feedback, and collaboration.

## Contact Us:

If you have questions about budgeting, financial reports, or funding programs, please don't hesitate to contact/visit our Finance Department at the Band Office:

- Jessica Haller
- Kim Johnny
- Janel Alphonse
- Louise Anderson
- Genny Bolyos

# Economic Development Update

Amy Moroni

Business Development Consultant, Tl'etinqox Economic Development

This past year the Tl'etinqox Government Economic Development team has been working hard to secure funding to strengthen and secure the infrastructure that supports Tl'etinqox Nation owned businesses and there are several exciting initiatives underway with more in the works.

At Chezacut Ranch, infrastructure improvements are moving ahead thanks to grants from New Relationship Trust and Investment Agriculture Fund. This support will create the plans needed to expand and stabilize the off-grid electrical system and fund the addition of a new bridge crossing, which will enable the ranch to grow the size of the cattle operations over the next few years.

Chezacut Ranch also secured funding to enhance pasture and rangeland management through rotational grazing practices and the introduction of solar ear tags for more effective cattle tracking while they are on range. Alongside these operational upgrades, Chezacut has recently launched local beef sales, now available at Chilcotin River Trading and for bulk purchase online by the Side or Quarter at [www.ChezacutBeef.ca](http://www.ChezacutBeef.ca). Chezacut is offering a 25% discount on bulk beef sales for Tsilhqot'in community members, Nation staff, and staff of Nation-owned businesses.

Additional projects include a Feasibility Study that is currently in progress to determine if there is any possibility to develop a community industrial or trades centre that could support community-owned business operations including construction, carpentry and equipment repair. This assessment is a very important first step in any project, and this research will decide if there are businesses the community has the resources to operate successfully.

Funding has also been secured to undertake some renovations at Chilcotin River Trading to expand the storage and refrigeration capacity in order to offer more groceries for sale such as produce, meat and dairy as well as make operations more efficient.





## National Award Winner! Hunter Carpenter Honoured with the Trailblazer Award

I am Hunter Carpenter, I'm 19 years old living in urban Prince George, BC, also an active status member of Tl'etinqox-t'in government. On the week of September 15th, I was chosen to receive the National Trailblazer award for 2025, presented by the Assembly of First Nations. This award nationally recognizes one outstanding youth under 29 years old across the country currently working for an Indigenous Skills Employment and Training Strategies (ISETS) organization. The work that I am most happy to share that helped me get to this point was a service advertisement expansion for programs and services accessible to indigenous peoples in urban Prince George, BC. The information I collected meeting with 20+ organizations in the urban area, and the research I completed resulted in a 154%/2.5x increase in services advertised to the public from 2022-2025. I always noticed growing up in the urban setting that there are services available, but it was hard for me to pinpoint what was available to me specifically and where to get help. Being able to partially bridge that gap was very meaningful to me, and made me feel like the work I am doing and continuing is genuinely making a difference for the Indigenous community around me.

On September 17th, I travelled to Ottawa, Ontario and received the Trailblazer Award from the Assembly of First Nations in person. I would like to thank the organizations that supported my nomination, the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association (PGNAETA), the Prince George Urban Indigenous Coalition (PGUIC), and the Aboriginal Business Development Centre (ABDC). As well as the Tl'etinqox-t'in Government for assisting with aspects of the trip.





**KNOCK, KNOCK.**  
**WHO'S THERE?**  
**BEETS.**  
**BEETS WHO?**  
**BEETS ME.**  
**I FORGOT THE JOKE!**

## KIDS FUN CORNER!

How do new pilots learn to fly?

-They just wing it.

Why did the teddy bear skip out on dessert when she was on a date?

-She was stuffed.

What's an alligator in a vest called?

-An investigator.

What's one animal you'll always find at a baseball game?

-A bat.

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear!

Why did the owl study all night?

Because he wanted to be a hoot at school!

What did one tree say to the other tree?

"You're really rooting for me!"

Why don't fish do well in school?

Because they're always swimming below sea level!

Why did the salmon always know what to say?

Because it went with the flow!

What did the drum say to the singer?

"You really beat me to it!"

Why did the eagle sit on the telephone wire?

He wanted to make a long-distance caw!

What did the canoe say when it finished the race?

"I'm paddled out!"

Which fruit is a vampire's favorite?

A neck-tarine.

Why did the skeleton climb up the tree?

Because a dog was after his bones!

How do you make seven an even number?

Just remove the s.

What did the triangle say when he got mad at the circle?

"You're pointless!"

What kind of snake is good at math?

An adder.

Why did the bird get in trouble in class?

Was tweeting on a test.

What's the most expensive fish?

A goldfish.

**What type of music do balloons hate listening to?**

Pop.



**What did the calculator say to her best friend?**

"You can always count on me."



**What do snowmen eat for breakfast?**

Snowflakes!



**What do you call a funny mountain?**

Hill-arious.



**KNOCK, KNOCK.**  
**WHO'S THERE?**  
**BEAR.**

**BEAR WHO?**  
**BEAR WITH ME. I'M STILL LEARNING HOW TO TELL A FUNNY JOKE!**



Collection from: Readers' Digest, retrieved from 212 Best Jokes for Kids to Get the Whole Family Giggling



# Tl'etinqox 2nd Annual Fall Festival

On Sunday, October 5th, 2025, the Tl'etinqox community came together in celebration for the 2nd Annual Fall Festival – a joyful gathering filled with laughter, connection, and the spirit of togetherness. Over 45 community members, including families and children, joined in the fun, making it a truly special day for all.

The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for families to connect with one another and with the land, enjoying the beauty of the season and the warmth of shared traditions.

Highlights of the day included a spirited potato digging competition with both children's and adult categories, a horseshoe tournament, and classic outdoor games like the always-popular potato sack race.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was the comfort of warm food, including the much-loved "World Famous Uncle Mitch's Chili," which brought everyone together around the fire of good food and even better conversation.

From playful competition to heartfelt moments of connection, the day was filled with laughter, and community spirit.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported the event – your presence helped make this year's Fall Festival truly memorable!



## OCTOBER

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |

## NOVEMBER

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |

## DECEMBER

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |

## JANUARY

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

*“Autumn leaves  
don’t fall, they  
fly. They take  
their time and  
wander on  
this their only  
chance to soar”*

*— Delia Owens*



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